



## **POLICY ISSUE**

### **Build Savings**

Key Question: What policies encourage and enable individuals to build savings?

### **Financial Literacy**

Financial education provides information and skills that enable individuals and families to manage their financial resources wisely, create positive relationships with financial institutions, and make informed financial decisions. Children who are exposed to financial education and decision-making skills have better financial habits as adults. Adult financial education can be successful when offered in the workplace when decisions need to be made about participating in an employer's retirement savings plan.

In 2006, the Florida Financial Literacy Council was created. The council studies financial problems that affect consumers and aims to help all Floridians make informed financial decisions. The council most recent recommendations include:

- **Existing literacy programs-** make an inventory and aware those based on high standards
- **K-12 education-** Include financial literacy topics in 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade curricula, require a personal finance course for high school graduation
- **Higher education-** Provide a list of financial literacy resources for colleges, implement a credit card awareness program for incoming college freshmen
- **Credit Scores and the Subprime Consumer-** increase financial security, improve Florida's statutory framework for consumer protection
- **Profile of the Financial Literacy Council-** Partnerships with Prosperity Campaigns

### **Related Links**

[Florida Financial Literacy Council](#)  
[Florida Jump Start](#)

### **Children's Savings Account**

Since 2003, has introduced a version of the America Saving for Personal Investment, Retirement, and Education Act ("The ASPIRE Act") which would set up a special account at birth for every child in America. Children living in households with incomes below national median income will be eligible for both a supplemental contribution of up to

\$500 at birth as well as the opportunity to earn up to \$500 per year in matching funds for amounts saved in the account. Financial education would be offered in conjunction with the accounts.

**Related Links**

[New America Foundation](#)

[The Urban Institute on CSA](#)